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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUPPLEMENT

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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ORIGIN

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1. Wilhelm Pieck recently spoke at a conference of editors of SED newspapers in the Eastern Zone and of KPD newspapers in the western zones, which was held in Wernigerode. At this time he proposed the use of an American or British-licensed news agency by the Communist-controlled newspapers, in view of complaints concerning poor and inadequate news coverage. He then outlined plans for the new western zonal edition of Neues Deutschland. According to the calculations of the Central Secretariat of the SED, approximately one million copies of Eastern Zone newspapers could be sold in the West. Neues Deutschland has been allocated sufficient paper for a western edition of 200,000 copies; 120,000 of these are to be sent to the British Zone, 60,000 to the American Zone, and 20,000 to the French Zone. Heretofore, Neues Deutschland has been sending 80,000 copies to the western zones daily, wrapped as letters and costing thirty pfennig postage each. A staff of more than forty women has prepared these newspapers for shipment. They are mailed in the name of Richter, one of the press directors of Neues Deutschland.
2. Rudolf Feistmann, who recently returned from Mexico, has been appointed director of the western edition of the Neues Deutschland. Before 1933 Feistmann was editor of Roter Aufbau, a bi-monthly KPD journal. Neues Deutschland in the Eastern Zone is controlled by Sepp Schwab, who worked in Moscow for eighteen years. Schwab wields a dictatorial authority over the editorial staff and press and was doubtless placed in this position by the Russians. The nominal editors-in-chief of Neues Deutschland, Max Nierich and Lex Ende, are without real authority. Nierich, an ex-SPD editor, is carried solely as window dressing. Ende would like to be put in complete charge of the paper and has the full support of the SED, which proposed that Schwab be transferred to Radio Berlin as manager to succeed Max Seydewitz; however, the Russians insisted on retention of Schwab at Neues Deutschland.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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3. The Central Secretariat of the SED has determined the policy to be pursued by party organs of the KPD and the SED in the western zones. It is particularly stressed that there are to be no direct attacks on the occupying powers; every precaution must be taken to prevent ban or seizure of any of the papers. In discussing the policy of the eastern European nations, references or remarks suggestive of an eastern bloc must be avoided. At the present time the chief task of all party organs is to publicize the coming SED convention; in this connection, twenty topics for newspaper articles have been furnished by the Central Secretariat.
4. According to the first confidential reports to reach the Executive Committee of the party, all passes issued for entrance to the Central Headquarters of the SED have been withdrawn since the explosion at the Berlin police detachment in Schönhauser Allee, and the guard has been increased. A guard also has been ordered for the editorial office of the Neues Deutschland located on Schönhauser Allee; he will be stationed at the street entrance and will maintain connections with the building by telephone.
5. At the conference mentioned in the first paragraph, Wilhelm Eisek stated that there has been some friction between the SED press and the party in Leipzig and Chemnitz. Each group accuses the other of having lost touch with the masses. In order to remedy this situation, the party in Chemnitz now requires that all SED newspapermen become members of SED factory groups (Betriebsgruppen) in Chemnitz industries. On the other hand all party leaders, from the Minister-Presidents down, must attend local SED neighborhood meetings, of as few as 10 members.

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